
Licensing Fees and Charges

Committee considering report: Licensing Committee
Date of Committee: 18 November 2019
Portfolio Member: Please select:
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:
Report Author: Suzanne McLaughlin
Forward Plan Ref: N/a

1. Purpose of the Report

Fees and charges relating to licences and registrations are based on cost recovery, and should they not reflect the cost of providing the service, there is a risk of generating a surplus or deficit. This report sets out the Fees and Charges which were considered and agreed the Joint Public Protection Committee on 7th November 2019.

2. Recommendation(s)

That the Committee resolves to recommend the fees to Council subject to:

Consideration of the outcomes of the statutory consultation on fees relating to Taxi and Private Vehicles and Private Hire Operators Fees.

3. Implications

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| 3.1 | Financial: | none |
| 3.2 | Policy: | none |
| 3.3 | Personnel: | none |
| 3.4 | Legal: | none |
| 3.5 | Risk Management: | none |
| 3.6 | Property: | none |
| 3.7 | Other: | none |

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 N/A

Executive Summary

5. Introduction / Background

- 5.1 Each service area is required to review the fees and charges it levies on behalf of the Council as part of the budget process. Appendix A details the relevant information from report to be considered by The Joint Protection Committee for 2020/21. The fees include a new structure for those proposed under The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations, the new licensing regime.

6. Proposal(s)

The Joint Public Protection Committee is required by the Inter-Authority Agreement that set up the Public Protection Partnership shared service to recommend a draft set of fees and charges to each of the member Councils.

It is noted that a significant number of fees within the licensing field are set by Government regulation and cannot therefore be changed by the Council. The full list is shown in Appendix B.

As a matter of principle, all fees and charges should be set on the basis of full cost recovery. Also aligning fees across the 3 Local Authorities is proposed where appropriate, including a proposed single fee structure for hackney carriage and private hire. Appendix C shows an example of the new and renewal for Private Hire Operator fees as well as the dispensation fees. Appendix D shows examples of the proposed fees calculation for Boarding Establishments combined dogs and cats as well as comparison of the fee payable for 3 different licence types currently and that proposed, showing the savings.

In respect of all discretionary fees and the hourly rate, an inflationary % rise has been applied. This inflationary rise will balance the increase in cost of service provision such as the cost of living salary rise.

The Committee has discretion to round the proposed fees to the nearest whole pound should they so resolve.

It is open to Members to propose an alternative approach to fee setting.

Statutory consultation on Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operators will be conducted following the decisions of this Committee.

7. Conclusion(s)

- 7.1 N/A

8. Appendices

Appendix A
Appendix B
Appendix C
Appendix D